tion both at shop floor and plant levels. As regards participation at the Board level, the administrative Ministry/Department concerned can take a decision in consultation with the Ministry of Labour. The mode of representation of worker representatives is to be determined in consultation with the concerned unions and parity in representation between management and workers' unions continues to be the norm. The participating arrangement covers operational areas, economic and financial areas, personnel matters, welfare areas, production, environment and community development.

LABOUR ORGANISATIONS LOOSING RELEVANCE IN USA

2444. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:
SHRI SARDA MOHANTY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the article written by Shri Gurucharan Das and published in the Times of India dated 28th October, 1993 that labour organisations are loosing their relevance in USA;

(b) whether it is a fact that TU membership in US has decreased by 56 percentage over 50 years;

(c) whether it is a fact that American workers believe that unions are the key cause of the decline in American competitiveness, they have become rigid institutions impending change and pushing wages to the point where their companies can not compete with overseas competitors; and

(d) whether the TU membership in India has declined in comparison with increased numerical strength of workers as percentage-wise ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) to (c) It is not within Government's competence to comment on the role and relevance of Labour Organisations in a foreign country.

(d) The verified membership of Central Trade Union Organisations has shown considerable increase from the year 1968 to 1980. The number of trade unions affiliated to Central Trade Unions Organisations and their verified membership as on 31-12-1968 and 31-12-1980 has also increased. The respective statistical data is as under :—

	AS ON 31-12-68	31-12-80
(i) No. of union affiliated to CTUOS and actual verified.	2637	6543
(ii) Verified membership	255080	6126816

The general verification of the membership of Central Trade Union Organisations as on 31-12-89 is under progress

बाल श्रमिकों के संरक्षण के लिये योजना

2445. श्री राम नरेश यादव : क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने "बाल श्रमिकों" के हितों के संरक्षण के लिए कोई नयी योजना तैयार की है, यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या इस नयी योजना में बाल श्रमिकों का शोषण रोकना और उन्हें पर्याप्त मजदूरी दिलाने के विषय शामिल हैं, और

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि देश में बाल श्रमिकों की संख्या 23 प्रतिशत से अधिक है, यदि हां, तो बाल श्रमिकों की दयनीय दशा को सुधारने के लिए क्या-क्या उपाय किये जाने पर विचार किया जा रहा है और इन उपायों के कब तक किये जाने की संभावना है ?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री पवन सिंह घटोवार) : (क) से

(ग) बाल श्रम से संबंधित सरकारी योजनाओं और कार्यक्रमों का लक्ष्य उसका उत्तरोत्तर उन्मूलन करना है। राष्ट्रीय बाल श्रम नीति, 1987 श्रम मंत्रालय की सहायता अनुदान योजना और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय श्रम संगठन द्वारा हाल ही में शुरू किए गए अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बाल श्रम उन्मूलन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत बाल श्रमिकों को कल्याण एवं उनके पुनर्वास से संबंधित परियोजनाएं चलाई जाती हैं। इन योजनाओं के अन्तर्गत नई परियोजनाओं की पहचान की जाती है और उन्हें समय-समय पर कार्यान्वित किया जाता है।

1981 की जनगणना के अनुसार सम्पूर्ण श्रम बल में बाल श्रम की प्रतिशतता 5.03 है।

MATERNITY BENEFIT ACT

2446. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Women's Association has demanded withdrawal of the allegedly by 'atrocious' amendment to the Maternity Benefit Act depriving maternity benefits to working women in respect of the third child; and invited attention to the rampant incidence of female foeticide and girl-infanticide;

(b) if so, what was the Governments response to this demand; and

(c) whether Government are also considering the question of granting incentives to unmarried working women especially in Government and Public Sector jobs, rather than withdrawing the maternity benefits if so, the details in his regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) The Government has received some representations protesting against the proposed amendment in the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 to restrict the grant of maternity benefit to women workers upto two living children. The views of the women's organisations have been noted and will be kept in view while finalising the proposal.

(c) No, Sir.

POSTS LYING VACANT AT VARIOUS COACHING-CUM-GUIDANCE CENTRES

2447. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Singular Operational Posts of Sub-Regional Employment Officer (SREO) and Assistant Employment Officer (AEO) lying vacant since long at various Coaching-cum-Guidance Centre for SC|ST.

(b) if so, the details of Centre-wise position of occurrence of such vacancies period from which such posts are vacant alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are not inclined to fill up these posts urgently; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take for filling up these posts urgently to protect the interest of unemployed educated SC|ST candidates?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of Centre-wise position of occurrence of vacancies, period from which such posts are vacant alongwith reasons therefor is given in the statement I and II (see below) for Sub-Regional Employment Officers and Assistant Employment Officers respectively.

(c) and (d) The Recruitment process has been initiated to fill up the vacant posts.